Coal Scam through linked consumers

*151. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Coal India Limited has admitted coal scam through linked coal consumers leading to huge losses; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) adopts a cash and carry system for the non core sector. No losses are incurred by CIL on sale of coal to the non-core sector.

(b) The Department of Coal has initiated a process of verification of the bonafides of all non core sector consumers of coal. This has been done in co-operation with the respective State Governments and the Vigilance Agencies. So far, as on 1.6.2002,3658 number of coal consumers have been verified and coal supplies to 330 linked consumers have been discontinued on the basis of adverse verification reports.

Production of Bio-Diesel and Edible Oil from wasteland

*152. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned. "Producing bio-diesel on wasteland" and "Drought-tolerant tree for wastelands" which apeared in The Hindu' on the 15th and 20th June. 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per scientists, the development of 30 million hectares of wasteland can be a source of employment and a boon in manufacture of bio-diesel or good quality edible oil; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to make it a really?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources are carrying out a Policy Analytical Study on utilisation of Ethanol Blends and other bio-fuels in Petrol and Diesel Vehicles. The Study is expected to